the implementation of power sector reforms as promised in the Common Minimum Programme of the UPA Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) The Electricity Act, 2003 has put in place a liberal and progressive legal framework. Generation has been delicensed. Transmission, Distribution and Trading of clericity are licensed activities. Licence for these activities is to be granted and regulated by the Electricity Regulatory Commissions. All the States except Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland, have constituted State Electricity Regulatory Commissions.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) Consequent to review of the Electricity Act, 2003, the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2003 has been introduced in the Lok Sabha.

Central Government has also awarded a study to the Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA) on the impact of reorganization of State Electricity Boards.

Purchase of power from Bhutan

663. SHRI TARIQ ANWAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Power Trading Corporation is all set to buy power from 1020 MW Tata Hydel Project in Bhutan,

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how much time it will take to commence power supply;

(d) whether it is also a fact that prices fixed by the Bhutan counterpart is less than the price of domestic companies; and

(e) if so, the steps Government are taking to start new big hydel power projects'

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) PTC India Limited (PTC) has been asked to enter into detailed Power Purchase and Sale Agreements.

(c) The first unit of Tala Hydroelectric Project is expected to be commissioned shortly.

(d) No, Sir. The tariffs of power produced by hydroelectric stations are project specific (In some case it may be lower and in some cases it may be higher).

(e) Three new major hydro projects namely Punatsangchhu-I, Punatsangchhu-ll and Mengdeehu hydroelectric projects have been identified for development in Bhutan. India and Bhutan have also signed as agreement on long-term cooperation in the filed of hydro power.

Steps to resolve power crisis

664. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether during this summer the country and particularly National Capital Delhi witnessed a major power crisis;

(b) if so, whether Government have identified the reasons for this crisis;

(c) if so, the steps proposed by Government to see that the power crisis such as this does not occur again;

(d) whether there is any plan before Government to formulate an Integrated Energy Regulator to monitor the situation; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHIL KUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) There has been an overall power shortage in the country during the current summer seasons except in a few States. The shortages vary from State to State, month to month and hour to hour. The average energy and peak shortage in the country during the period April-June, 2006 was 9.3% and 12.8% respectively. The energy and peak shortage in Delhi during the same period was 1.9% and 2.8% respectively. The shortage in the peak summer months is generally higher due to extreme weather conditions combined with higher agricultural load. In the National Capital